

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 RSR-01 OPR-02 NIC-01 /129 W

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R 171459Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8478

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, WA, SF

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

REF: PRETORIA 2836 AND 2913

1. PRIME MINISTER'S MULTI-RACIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SOUTH WEST AFRICA HAS BEEN MEETING AUGUST 16-17 AT THE JAN SMUTS AIRPORT HOLIDAY INN. MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AMID EVIDENCE OF OFFICIAL NERVOUSNESS, UNDOUBTEDLY HEIGHTENED BY SERIES OF POLITICAL REVERSES SAG HAS EXPERIENCED IN NAMIBIA IN RECENT WEEKS.

2. SAG IS MAKING SURE THAT ACCESS TO DELEGATES IS STRICTLY CONTROLLED. THUS FAR, NO INTERVIEWS AND ONLY A FEW PHOTOGRAPHS HAVE BEEN PERMITTED, DESPITE CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC INTEREST. VENUE OF MEETINGS WAS CHANGED AT LAST MOMENT FROM UNION
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BUILDINGS IN PRETORIA TO JAN SMUTS, WHERE DELEGATES ARE

RELATIVELY ISOLATED AND LESS CONSPICUOUS. NO AGENDA HAS BEEN PUBLISHED.

3. NEVERTHELESS, PRESS HAS LEARNED OF SOME OF THE ITEMS UNDER DISCUSSION: OWAMBO DELEGATES, CHIEF MINISTER PHILEMON ELIFAS AND CORNELIUS NJOBA, ARE SAID TO HAVE ASKED FOR EASIER MOVEMENT OF INHABITANTS "ESPECIALLY CLERICS AND IMPORTANT PEOPLE" BETWEEN DIFFERENT PARTS OF TERRITORY, AS WELL AS EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK FOR ALL PEOPLE. HEAD OF FEDERAL COLORED PEOPLE'S PARTY, A. J. F. KLOPPERS, CALLED FOR INCREASED TEMPO OF HOMELAND DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSION OF BLACK MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATIONS TO UNITED NATIONS. EASTERN CAPRIVI REPRESENTATIVES, M. MORALISWANI AND M. MAMILI, CALLED FOR DISCUSSION OF "VIOLATION OF BORDERS BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND EASTERN CAPRIVI" BY GUERRILLAS OPERATING OUT OF ZAMBIA. SENIOR MEMBER OF (WHITE) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA, D. F. MUDGE, TABLED A MOTION THAT "MORE CONTACT OF A RESPONSIBLE LEVEL BE INSTITUTED BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT POPULATION GROUPS." OTHER QUESTIONS INCLUDED THE ROLE OF "NATIVES" IN DEFENSE OF THE TERRITORY, A REQUEST THAT REPENTENT POLITICAL EXILES BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO NAMIBIA WITHOUT FEAR OF PERSECUTION AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION FOR ALL POPULATION GROUPS.

4. SAG HAS BEEN DOING ITS BEST, UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES, TO LEND PRESTIGE TO ADVISORY COUNCIL. THUS IN ADDITION TO PRIME MINISTER VORSTER HIMSELF, MEETINGS HAVE BEEN ATTENDED BY SUCH HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS MINISTER OF BANTU ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT M. C. BOTHA, MINISTER OF COLORED AND REHOBOTH AFFAIRS DR. SCHALK VAN DE MERWE, COMMISSIONER GENERAL FOR EASTERN CAPRIVI DR. E. F. POTGIETER, SECRETARY FOR BANTU EDUCATION DR. A. H. VAN ZYL AND SECRETARY FOR BANTU ADMINISTRATION P. VAN ONSELEN. HOWEVER, ABSENCE OF COMMISSIONER GENERAL JANNIE DE WET HAS BEEN WIDELY NOTED. DE WET REMAINS IN OWAMBO TO MONITOR SITUATION THERE.

5. COMMENT: TENOR OF DISCUSSIONS INDICATES THAT BLACK MEMBERS OF ADVISORY COUNCIL WILL NOT BE ENTIRELY CONTENT TO BE YES-MEN. HOWEVER, NO ONE BELIEVES THEY ARE IN POSITION TO PLAY MEANINGFUL ROLE IN PRESENT EXPLOSIVE SITUATION IN NAMIBIA. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEMBERS OF COUNCIL HAVE YET TO PROVE THEY REPRESENT SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF INHABITANTS OF TERRITORY OR THAT THEY ARE PERSONALLY EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH UNFOLDING POLITICAL CRISIS. IN BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES, COUNCIL WOULD NEED LONG PERIOD OF TIME TO SINK ROOTS IN POLITICAL SOIL OF NAMIBIA.

SMITH

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